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SACRAMENTO MAN SENTENCED TO 22 YEARS **FOR CRACK COCAINE TRAFFICKING**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that CLEVIE EARL BUCKLEY, 34, of Sacramento, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. to 22 years in federal prison. The defendant was found guilty of possessing cocaine base (crack cocaine) with the intent to distribute by a federal jury on December 8, 2006. Evidence introduced at trial showed that BUCKLEY was arrested after delivering eight ounces of crack cocaine to his co-defendants Tha Bun Heng and Chhom Mao in a shopping mall parking lot in Sacramento on June 14, 2004. When police tried to apprehend BUCKLEY he led them on a high speed pursuit through lunch-hour traffic. The pursuit ended when BUCKLEY lost control of his car on the I Street Bridge and crashed into the curb embankment. BUCKLEY then jumped over the side of the bridge on to the ground below, breaking both his ankles. He crawled under a bush where he was discovered by a police canine and arrested.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Yolo County Narcotics Enforcement Team (YONET), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Yolo County District Attorney's Office. The investigation, which began in February, 2004, focused on crack cocaine sales at an apartment complex in West Sacramento, and culminated in the arrest of 15 people, including BUCKLEY. BUCKLEY is the last defendant to be sentenced, and all received imprisonment of varying lengths.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Carolyn K. Delaney, who prosecuted the case, in sentencing the defendant, Judge Burrell said that the defendant was a long-time drug dealer, convicted of drug dealing at least twice before, who needed a long period of incarceration to protect the public and provide a deterrent.

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